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***Meharia* Chrétien, 1915 - new genus in Zimbabwean Fauna (Lepidoptera: Cossidae)**

R. V. Yakovlev & Th. J. Witt

Abstract

The article gives a new indication on the species of the genus rare for the territory of Africa, *Meharia* Chrétien, 1915. *Meharia ganslmeieri* Yakovlev & Witt, 2015 is indicated for the first time for the fauna of Zimbabwe, which significantly extends the habitat of the genus to the South.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Cossidae, *Meharia*, new indication, Zimbabwe.

***Meharia* Chrétien, 1915 - nuevo género en la fauna zimbabuense
(Lepidoptera: Cossidae)**

Resumen

El artículo da una nueva indicación sobre la especie para el territorio de África, del raro género *Meharia* Chrétien, 1915. *Meharia ganslmeieri* Yakovlev & Witt, 2015 es indicado por primera vez para la fauna de Zimbabwe, extendiendo significativamente, el hábitat del género hacia el sur.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Cossidae, *Meharia*, nueva indicación, Zimbabwe.

Introduction

The genus *Meharia* Chretien, 1915 (type species *Meharia incurvariella* Chretien, 1915) is a type genus for the monotypic subfamily Mehariinae Yakovlev, 2011. The genus *Meharia* consists of 15 species (YAKOVLEV & SALDAITIS, 2008; YAKOVLEV, 2011, 2014; BORTH *et al.*, 2010; SALDAITIS & IVINSKIS, 2010; YAKOVLEV & WITT, 2015): *M. acuta* Wiltshire, 1982 (distributed in Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman); *M. avicenna* Yakovlev, 2011 (distr. in Southern Iran); *M. fischeri* Yakovlev & Saldaitis, 2008 (distr. in Morocco); *M. breithaupti* Yakovlev, 2014 (distr. in UAE); *M. ganslmeieri* Yakovlev & Witt, 2015 (distr. in Zambia); *M. hackeri* Saldaitis, Ivinskis & Yakovlev, 2011 (distr. on Socotra Island, Yemen); *M. incurvariella* Chrétien, 1915 (distr. in Algeria and Morocco); *M. murphyi* Yakovlev & Saldaitis, 2013 (distr. in Malawi); *M. ostrauskasi* Ivinskis & Saldaitis, 2013 (distr. in Kenya); *M. philbyi* Bradley, 1952 (distr. across the Arabian peninsula in Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman); *M. scythica* D. Komarov & Zolotuhin, 2005 (distr. in the Southern Volga region, South-Western Russia); *M. semilactea* (Warren & Rothschild, 1905) (distr. in Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Yemen, the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, Northern Sudan, Morocco and Mauritania); *M. tancredi* Sutton, 1963 (distr. in Northern Iran); *M. tanganyikae* Bradley, 1952 (distr. in Tanzania); *M. yakovlevi* Saldaitis & Ivinskis, 2010 (distr. on Socotra Island, Yemen).

The specimens of the genus are distributed from the South Volga (KOMAROV & ZOLOTUHIN, 2005) throughout Arabia and Sahara up to Malawi and Zambia (YAKOVLEV *et al.*, 2013;

YAKOVLEV & WITT, 2015). During the examination of materials on Cossidae deposited in Ditsong National Museum of Natural History, Pretoria, South Africa (formerly Transvaal Museum), we have discovered a male of *M. ganslmeieri* Yakovlev & Witt, 2015, collected on the territory of Zimbabwe. This finding significantly enlarges the areal of the genus *Meharia* to the South.

Results and discussion

Meharia ganslmeieri Yakovlev & Witt, 2015 (Figs 1-2)

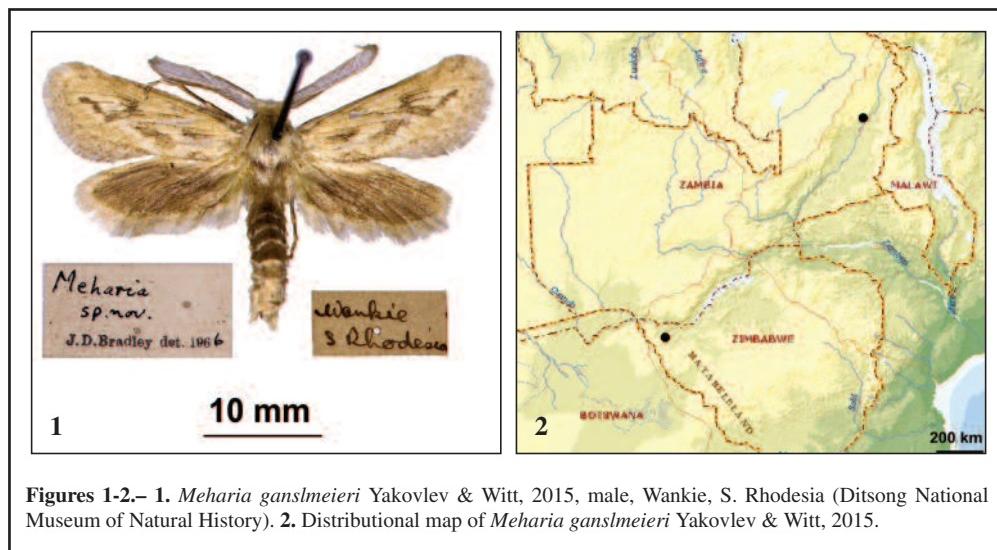
Type locality: Zambia, Luangwa Valley.

Type material (holotype) in Museum Witt (Munich).

Material: 1 ♂, Wankie [Hwange, Matabeleland North Province, 18° 21' 53"S 26° 30' 00"E], S. Rhodesia [Zimbabwe].

Distribution: Southern Zambia, NE Zimbabwe.

Notes: The specimen is provided with an identifying label written by hand of J. D. Bradley "Meharia sp. nov.". The initial data on the Cossidae fauna of Zimbabwe were published here (YAKOVLEV & LENZ, 2013). Thus, 16 Cossid species of 10 genera are currently known from the territory of Zimbabwe.



Figures 1-2.– 1. *Meharia ganslmeieri* Yakovlev & Witt, 2015, male, Wankie, S. Rhodesia (Ditsong National Museum of Natural History). 2. Distributional map of *Meharia ganslmeieri* Yakovlev & Witt, 2015.

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